(Fig. in Rs.)

Year	Gram	Tur
JANUARY 1993		
Wholesale (Per Qtl)	1100.00	1100.00
Retail (Per Kg.)	12.00	14.50
JULY 1993	1200.00	1100.00
Wholesale (Per Qtl)	13.00	14.00
Retail (Per Kg.)		
JANUARY 1994	1775.00	1300.00
Wholesale (Per Qtl)	20.00	16.00
Retail (Per Kg.)		
JULY 1994	1550.00	1400.00
Wholesale (Per Qtl)	18.00	16.00
Retail (Per Kg.)		
JANUARY 1995	1250.00	1450.00
Wholesale (Per Qtl)	15.00	18.00
Retail (Per Kg.)		
JULY 1995	940.00	2100.00
Wholesale (Per Qtl)	13.50	28.50
Retail (Per Kg.)		

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the last three years the import of pulses is as follows:—

1992-93	3.83 lakh tonnes
1993-94	6.27 „
1994-95	5.55 „

(e) Import of pulses have been put under Open General Licence and Import duty on pulses has been reduced to five percent. These measures have been taken to facilitate imports of pulses. However, the Central Government has no proposal to make available pulses for distribution through PDS. State Governments are free to distribute pulses on their own through the PDS.

Implementation of M.Ps. Local Area Development Scheme in Karnataka

8. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of work executed under the M.Ps.' Local Area Development Scheme in Karnataka, upto the 30th June, 1995;

(b) the time frame in which the Dsitrict Collector is rquired to take up the work and the formalities to be observed;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the District Collectors are not prompt in getting the work done under this scheme; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The position is being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The District Collector is required to complete the scheme within one or two working seasons.

(c) and (d) Whenever reports of delay in taking up Hon'ble M.Ps. proposals are received, the MDs are advised to take immediate and prompt action.

Slashing Down of Quota of coking coal in Bihar

9. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to the Central Government's decision to slash down the quota of coking coal to the state of Bihar in successive years since 1993, has resulted in an acute crisis of coking coal in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof alongwith year-wise details of the allocations made to the State since 1993; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to raise the quota of coking coal to. Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF'COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b)

Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the supply of soft coke for domestic use in the state of Bihar.

Details of soft coke allocation to the State of Bihar per month since 1993-94 were as follows:

(In tonnes)

1993-94 upto December 93		January, 94 to December, 94		January, 95 to March, 95		April, 95 to March, 96	
Soft Cok	Soft coke	CIL coke	Soft coke	CIL coke	Soft coke	CIL coke
60,000	40,000	20,000	10,000	50,000	10,000	50,000

Since the production of soft coke is decling over the years, the allocations of soft coke were reduced and have been substituted by allocations of CILCOKE so that the total availability of soft coke and CILCOKE for domestic purpose for various States/Union Territories remains unaffected.

(c) Steps taken to increase availability of domestic fuel include;

(i) The State Governments have been requested to make earnest efforts to popularise the use of CILCOKE in their states. This coke is smokeless and ideal for house hold use and has a higher calorific value, though the price is higher as compared to that of soft coke.

(ii) Coal Companies are in a position to supply steam coal in lieu of soft coke allocations to the State Governments. The State Governments may in turn convert this steam coal into soft coke in their respective states.

(iii) Coal India Limited has given linkages to several units for manufacture of briquettes and Special smokeless fuel (SSF). Briquettes produced by these units are better substitute for soft coke. The Government has also relaxed the earlier restrictions of giving linkages to only 4 such units in each district. The State Governments have been requested to monitor production of briquettes by these units and also encourage such new units so as to meet the need of coal based domestic fuels.

New Technologies in Coal Exploitation

10. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what new technology is being introduced for the exploitation of coal deposits in areas where difficult geo-mining conditions exist, from the point of view of coal conservation and safety;

(b) what is the nature of the technology being presently made use of;

(c) how does our present technology compare with that in advanced countries; and

(d) by when the most advanced technology would be introduced in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Introduction of new and advanced technologies is a continuous process. Some of the new technologies introduced in the underground coal mines in India for exploitation of coal deposits include Blasting Gallery Method, Sub-level Caving, Shield-mining technique, Kamora or chamber method of mining and powered support longwall mining technology.

These technologies have already been introduced in some of the coal mines in India and according to Coal India Limited (CIL)'s assessment these are at par with the advanced coal producing countries.